



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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July 14, 2008

TO: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe *Wendy Watanabe*
Acting Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – LINDEN CENTER
- GARDNER HOUSE GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Gardner House Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Linden Center. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Gardner House Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Gardner House Group Home was not providing services for any Los Angeles County children.

Gardner House Group Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to evaluate the Agency's facility and environment. Since Gardner House Group Home was not providing services for any Los Angeles County children at the time of our review, the monitoring review was limited to a facility inspection which covers basic child safety and licensing issues.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Group Home is well maintained except for a few deficient areas.

Gardner House Group Home needs to replace the carpet in the living room and the bedrooms, repair the baseboards in bathroom two, repair the wall in bedroom two and provide sufficient lighting in bedroom three.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

WLW:MMO:DC:CC:gfw

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Senior Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Paul Blank, Chairman of the Board, Linden Center
Dr. Ronald Ricker, M.D., Executive Director, Linden Center
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Linden Center
Gardner House Group Home
Los Angeles, California, 90036
License Number: 191800173
Rate Classification Level: 12**

Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Gardner House Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the living room carpet is worn and stained and the baseboards in bathroom two are damaged.

Generally, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, the carpet in the bedrooms is worn and stained. In bedroom two, one of the walls has water damage, and there is insufficient lighting in bedroom three.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Linden Center management:

- a. Replace the carpet in the living room and in the bedrooms.**
- b. Replace the baseboards in bathroom two.**
- c. Repair the wall in bedroom two.**
- d. Provide sufficient lighting in bedroom three.**



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March 14, 2008

Department of Auditor-Controller
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Attn.: Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor
500 West Temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: The Linden Center CAP for audit January 2008

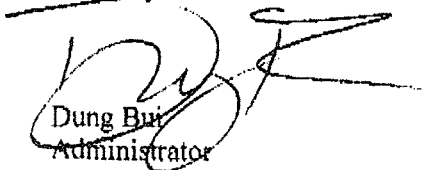
Dear Ms. Rhue:

The Linden Center purposes to adopt the following Correction Plan based on the finding of the January review.

- Recommendation – replace carpet : The Linden Center plans to replace the carpet in the living room and bedrooms by Summer 2009.
- Recommendation – replace bases boards in bathroom 2 : The baseboards have been replaced. The house supervisor and administrator will be responsible for weekly inspection of the house for any deficiencies.
- Recommendation – repair wall in bedroom 2 – The wall has been replaced. The house supervisor and administrator will be responsible for weekly inspection of the house for any deficiencies.
- Recommendation – provide sufficient lighting in bedroom 3 : The lights bulbs in bedroom 3 have been replaced. The house supervisor and administrator will be responsible for weekly inspection of the house for any deficiencies.

I hope this plan is satisfactory. Should you have any questions or require revisions to this plan, please do not hesitate to contact me at 213-251-8226, ext. 209/

Sincerely,



Dung Bui
Administrator